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*The One Hundredth Anniversary  
Celebration*

*1858-1958*



*Bethphage Lutheran Church*

Lincolnton, N. C.



THE ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

Celebrating

*The One Hundredth Anniversary*  
*1858-1958*

OF

*Bethphage Lutheran Church*

Lincolnton, N. C.

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GLENN A. YOUNT, Pastor

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SEPTEMBER 12, 1958

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This booklet is affectionately dedicated to those whose faith, prayer and sacrifice through the years have made possible our beloved Bethphage Lutheran Church.

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**Prepared by the Anniversary Committee:**

Mrs. O. R. Pearce, Chairman  
Mrs. J. T. Armstrong  
Mrs. Glenn Leonhardt  
Mrs. J. T. Leatherman  
Mrs. Mamie Dellinger  
Pastor Glenn A. Yount

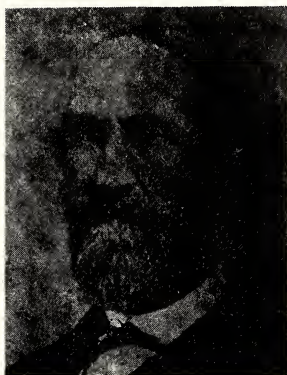


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## HISTORY OF BETHPHAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bethphage Lutheran Church was organized September 12, 1858 when a group of interested people met under the leadership of the Rev. A. J. Fox to organize themselves into a congregation. The Rev. Mr. Fox was the guiding spirit in effecting the organization and became the first pastor of the congregation.



REV. A. J. FOX  
1858-1873

The officers of the congregation were Josephus Houser, Capt. Jacob W. Beam and Philip Carpenter, Esq., Elders; Dr. Wiley W. McGinnis, Secretary; John Houser, Clerk. Later, on March 30, 1861 Philip W. Carpenter was elected treasurer. One hundred and sixty-nine members united with the congregation from its infancy. The records show that the first funeral was held May 26, 1857 for Mr. Jacob Houser. (A discrepancy may exist here as to the date for the congregation had not yet been

organized, however, the church building may have been erected before the congregation was officially organized.)

The first confirmation class consisted of one person, Louisa Hoke, on May 8, 1859. Another class, consisting of twenty members was confirmed later the same year. Each year thereafter a class was confirmed.

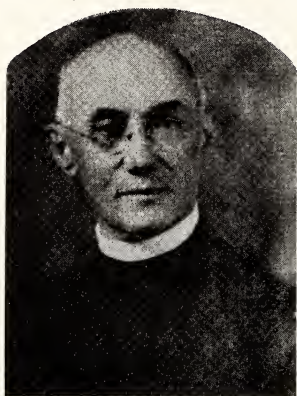
The first worship services were held under a brush arbor. These services often lasted from 8:00 A. M. until 4:00 P. M. The seats under the arbor were made of hand hewn logs.



The first Bethphage Church building was built in Lincoln County, N. C. in 1858 by Andy Hallman on land that had been



given by Davy Shell. It was a low framed structure with three doors, one on either side, and one in the end of the building. Two laymen, Messrs. Lawson and Henry Houser often read the Bible to the congregation. Two benches were provided for the negro worshippers.



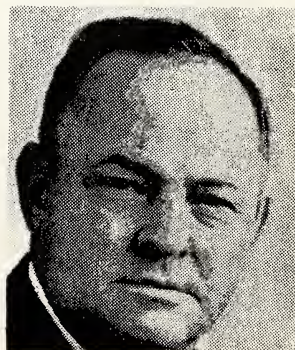
REV. E. H. KOHN  
1904-1909

The first Church building served the congregation until the year 1891. When it could no longer accomodate the number of worshippers, it was replaced by a new and larger building, which was located on the present site of the cemetery.

During the pastorate of the Rev. E. H. Kohn, on August 25, 1907, after the administration of the Lord's Supper at Bethphage Church, the records show that Pastor Kohn dedicated to the Lord the Church Bell and its tower, and the Church Organ.



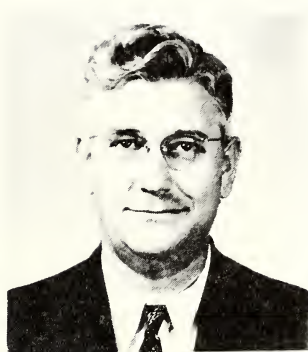
As years passed and the congregation continued to grow under the blessings of God, it again became necessary, in 1926, to build a new and still larger building. This third building was erected under the leadership of the Rev. F. M. Speagle. The new, beautiful and modern brick building still stands as the present house of worship across the road facing the old church site. The Church now overlooks the hallowed cemetery where rest the remains of many loved ones who fought life's battles, and endured many hardships in order that the church may be permanently planted in the community.



REV. F. M. SPEAGLE  
1925-1928

This third Bethphage Church building was dedicated on May 29, 1938 at 10:45 A. M. The regular Service of the Church was used, followed by the order for dedication of Churches. The service was conducted by the Pastor, the Rev. H. P. Barringer, assisted by the Rev. F. M. Speagle and the Rev. J. L. Morgan, D.D., president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North Carolina.

The act of dedication was celebrated on the sixth anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. H. P. Barringer.



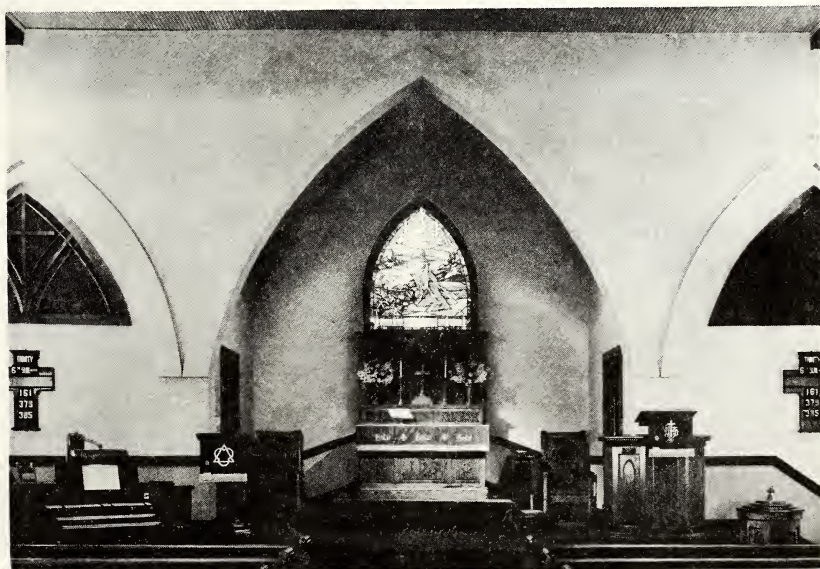
REV. H. P. BARRINGER  
1932-1940

On May 4, 1941, Bethphage Lutheran



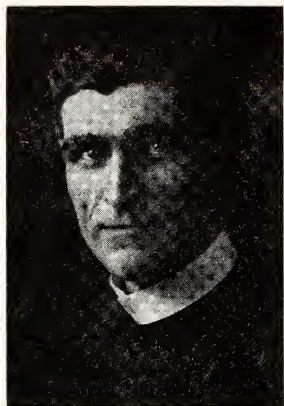
REV. WALTER N. YOUNT  
1940-1942

Church was rededicated by the Pastor, the Rev. Walter N. Yount, assisted by the Rev. J. L. Morgan, D.D., president of the Synod, who delivered the message of the day. The congregation and visitors entered a church that had been completely refinished inside and furnished with oak Chancel Furniture, Candelabra, Altar Cross, Altar edition of the Common Service, Missal Stand and Candle Lighter. Some of the furnishings and twenty-four of the pews were given in memory of deceased loved ones. The Chancel Furniture, consisting of Altar, Reredos, Pulpit, Lectern and Chairs were given by Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Houser.



CHANCEL





REV. J. C. DEITZ  
1909-1914

During these years Bethphage had been a part of three different Parishes. When organized by the Rev. A. J. Fox the congregation became a part of the Vale Parish with Trinity Lutheran Church and others. On January 1, 1906, Bethphage united with the Cherryville Parish, with St. John's and others, under the leadership of the Rev. E. H. Kohn. During the pastorate of the Rev. J. C. Dietz, 1909-1914, Bethphage became a part of the Crouse Parish. This relationship continued until January 1, 1950 when Bethphage severed relationship with the Crouse Parish to form a two-church Parish with Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, Vale, N. C.

A parsonage for the Bethphage-Cedar



Grove Parish was erected in 1950-51 on a one acre plot donated by Miss Edna Wise adjoining the Bethphage Church Property. The dedicatory services for the new brick-venereed, nine room parsonage was held Sunday, July 6, 1952. After the regular Service, conducted in the Church by the Pastor, the Rev. L. Clement Hahn, with the Sermon by the Synod President, the Rev. F. L. Conrad, D.D., the congregation and choir proceeded to the front of the parsonage for the dedicatory Service.

On October 26, 1952, a new C2c Consonnata Organ was dedicated during an afternoon Service by the Pastor L. Clement Hahn. Mr. and Mrs. Rome Jones, of



REV. L. CLEMENT HAHN  
1950-1954



Newton, N. C., contributed one half the price of the organ in honor of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Houser. The congregation contributed one half of the purchase price.

A set of Deagan Chimes were added to the organ in honor of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Heavner by their children. This dedication was held on January 4, 1953.

The carpeting in the Church was given in memory of Mrs. Laura Wise Leatherman, by her husband, Mr. Russell Leatherman, and was dedicated November 2, 1952.



Bethphage Parish Hall was built in 1952-53 on a lot given by Mrs. Lee Leonhardt and children. The building is 30 feet by 64 feet, consisting of a large hall, kitchen and two rest rooms. The interior walls are of white pine panelling. This building valued at \$6,000.00 was constructed at a cost of \$3,500.00, by free labor by the members, given mostly on Saturdays. The Parish Hall was dedicated on February 21, 1954 by the Rev. L. Clement Hahn, Pastor. The Sermon for the day was delivered by the Rev. Walter N. Yount, a former Pastor.



GLENN A. YOUNT  
1954-

The present Pastor, the Rev. Glenn A. Yount, having accepted the call of the Joint Councils of Bethphage and Cedar Grove, began his duties on the third Sunday of October, 1954.

The outstanding event of the Bethphage Church History in recent years was the decision that after 98 years of congregational activity as a part of various multiple parishes the congregation should become a one-church parish with the services of a full-time Pastor. It had become apparent by the end of 1955 that the financial strength of Bethphage was such that she might be self-supporting.

The decision was made that Bethphage would sever connections with Cedar Grove, purchasing their 2/5 interest in the parsonage and all jointly owned equipment for the sum of \$6,300.00. June 1, 1956 was the date the separation became effective. Having been called by the congregation as their first full-time Pastor, Glenn A. Yount remained in that capacity at Bethphage.

The following notable additions have been made to the equipment of Bethphage in recent months:

Purchase of a new Wurlitzer piano for the church (\$500.00)

Installation of tile floor covering in the Parish Hall (a project of the ULCW)

Installation of tile floor covering the Church Narthex (a project of the ULCW)

Complete remodeling and redecoration of Church basement educational facilities with free labor, at a cost of approximately \$1,350.00.

Laying of additional walkways at the Church (project of Brotherhood)

The first seeding of the Church lawn.

The installation of an oil fired, hot air furnace in the parsonage (\$1,000.00)

The installation of an oil fired steam boiler in the Church (\$1,666.00)

Purchase of 130 New Service Book and Hymnals (\$500.00)

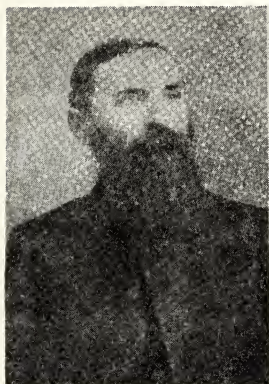
The Bethphage Brotherhood is now serving the youth of the community by sponsoring a large active Boy Scout Troop.

Bethphage has enjoyed a hundred years of progress and our congregation continues to grow spiritually. Bethphage has sent one son into the Ministry, the Rev. Walter D. Wise, and one Missionary, Miss Clara M. Sullivan, L.H.D.

We pray that Bethphage will continue to grasp new opportunities and achieve great things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

With gratitude in our hearts and with thankful devotion to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we celebrate our one hundredth Anniversary.

## THESE PASTORS ALSO SERVED BETHPHAGE



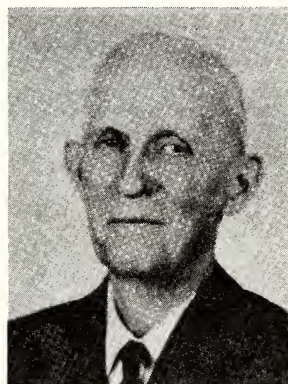
Rev. M. L. LITTLE  
1873-1883



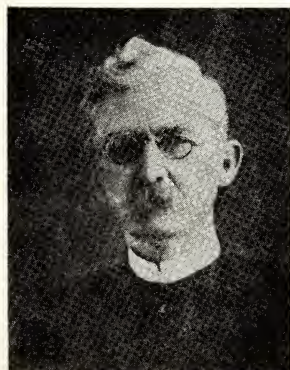
REV. JOHN J. GEORGE  
1894-



REV. J. A. RUDISILL  
1883-



REV. R. H. CLINE  
1903-1904



REV. L. L. LOHR  
1890-



REV. O. W. ADERHOLDT  
1916-1920



## THESE PASTORS ALSO SERVED BETHPHAGE



REV. C. O. LIPPARD  
1920-1924



REV. R. L. FISHER  
1942-1943



REV. J. J. BICKLEY  
1928-1932



REV. L. S. MILLER  
1943-1950

REV J. C. WESSINGER  
(No picture available)  
1895-1903

## **"FIRSTS" AT BETHPHAGE CHURCH**

The first person buried in the cemetery was Mr. Jacob Houser.

The last funeral service in the second church was for Mr. John F. Leonard.

The first marriage performed in the second church was Miss Grace Leonard and Mr. Melvin Leonhardt, by the Rev. J. C. Deitz on January 14, 1912.

The first marriage performed in the present church was Miss Johnsie Leonard and Mr. Ira Saine by the Rev. J. J. Bickley, on May 11, 1929.

The first funeral service conducted in the present church was for Mr. Paul Hartsoe.

The first children baptised in the present church by Rev. F. M. Speagle, were Fred M. Houser and Everette Houser.

## CHRISTIAN LIFE SERVICE

Rev. Walter Daniel Wise — Born May 12, 1880, son of Cornelius L. and Sarah Ann Wise, in Courtland, Mississippi.



REV. W. D. WISE

Educated in Lincoln County schools and Ridge Academy, at Lenoir (Rhyne) College with A. B. Degree, 1905. Lutheran Theo. Southern Seminary, 1908.

Married Miss Fannie Lavinia Frick of Chapin, S. C., Oct. 5, 1909.

Children: Rev. Bernard F. Wise, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. W. David Wise, Asheboro, N. C.; Mrs. Wm. C. Harr, Blountville, Tenn.

Ordained by Tennessee Synod Sept. 26, 1908. Served parishes in Newton, Claremont and Maiden, N. C., Leesville and Silverstreet, S. C., Blountville, Tenn., Rural Retreat, Va.

Pastor Wise rejoices in a fruitful ministry under God with three new Church Buildings and a Parsonage to his credit.

He retired in 1947 and now lives at 423 Holly St., Asheboro, N. C.

Mary Clara Sullivan, L.H.D. — Born April 11, 1900; daughter of Rufus B. and Sarah H. Sullivan. Baptized July 1, 1900; confirmed Nov. 2, 1913 at Bethphage.



MISS M. CLARA SULLIVAN  
L.H.D.

Higher education at Lenoir Rhyne College. Graduated in 1922 at University of North Carolina Summer School, Biblical Seminary, N. Y., College of Chinese Studies, Peking, China and Language School, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

Taught in Mont Amoena Seminary and various High Schools at Lenoir Rhyne College.

Comissioned Missionary in September, 1929.

Served as Missionary in China 1929 - 1951, with furloughs in '35, '43, '51; in Malaya in 1953 - 1957, with furlough in 1958.

Was retained by Japanese in Concentration Camp in '43.

Lenoir Rhyne College bestowed degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, 1952.

Dr. Sullivan hopes to return to Malaya in February, 1959.



## AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

The shortest possible history of our first 100 years would in no wise be complete without a glance at the Auxiliaries of the Church. Let us set forth as accurately as possible the beginnings of the Sunday School, the Women's Missionary Society, the Brotherhood and the Luther League.

In the earliest record book available on the Sunday School, we find under the date, April 22, 1860, this notation, "Sabbath School to commence and to be conducted by the last year's form at Bethphage Church. This School shall organize and proceed to elect the following officers." This indicates two things, namely, that a Sabbath School was being held at Bethphage before 1860 from the words, "by last year's form"; and that we can safely say there was such a school in 1859, if not sooner. On the first preserved sheet of this earliest record book, we find a portion of the Constitution of the School with a list of officers and teachers of "Bethphage Church Sunday School Union." Let us assume that this is the list of officers for the year, 1859. All indications from this first record book are that the early schools were organized each Spring with a new set of officers to serve during the Summer months of that year. This 1859 list of officers includes David Huss and John Houser, Superintendent; David Shell, John Hoover, Abr'm Houser, Peter Huss and Jacob Huss, Managers; Em'l Houser, Secretary; and Winehardt Sane, Treasurer and Collector. In these early Schools, all teachers and pupils were listed separately, male and female.

The ladies of Bethphage were no different from most Churches in that they had a local Ladies Aid Society, a social and benevolent organization to assist in the support and upkeep of the local Congregation and Building. The Women's Missionary Society is believed to have been organized at Bethphage during the Pastorate of Rev. O. W. Aderholdt, (1916 - 1920), with Mrs. Aderholdt as the guiding spirit. This Women's Auxiliary has continued faithfully through the years. In recent years, they have cherished their name as the Clara Sullivan Missionary Society. They, today, are known as the United Lutheran Church Women with all such groups in the Church at large.

At Bethphage, as at most other Churches, the Women's Society lovingly sponsored the Children's auxiliary, known as the Light Brigade. It is the thought that Mrs. C. O. Lippard led in the beginnings of this group during the Pastorate of her husband, (1920 - 1924). The Light Brigade in later years gave way to the Children of the Church, which has now been dropped in favor of the extensive Children's Program including the Weekday Church School.

With the Brotherhood, as with the Women's Society and the Luther League, there are no existing records of the early days of the organization. It is thought that the Bethphage Brotherhood was organized under the leadership of Rev. Hugh P. Barringer, (1932 - 1940), and that Mr. A. B. Heavner was the first President. The Brotherhood is distinguishing itself in recent years with renewed

activity and zeal. Perhaps their outstanding accomplishment of recent years is worthy of special mention. The Brotherhood sponsored the organization of the Howard Creek Boy Scout Troop which has enjoyed a successful program and fine growth under the leadership, first of Pastor Glenn A. Yount, and now Scoutmaster Robert Gilbert.

The Luther League was organized under the leadership of Miss Clara Sullivan in 1922 after her graduation from Lenoir Rhyne College. Miss Floy Hartsoe is reported to have been the first President.

Space will not permit us to catalogue the accomplishments of these various Auxiliary organizations. Let us merely say that they have been all that their name implies, auxiliary forces down thru the years, educating the young and old alike to the Christian truths, Christian responsibilities and opportunities at home and abroad, inspiring their members to greater loyalty to Bethphage and to the Church at large.

We pay tribute here to all who have served as leaders and faithful members of the Bethphage Sabbath School, Sunday School Unions, Sunday Schools, Ladies' Aid, Women's Missionary Society, United Lutheran Church Women, Brotherhood and Luther League. We only hope and pray that the present and future generations will be inspired to carry the banner of our present auxiliaries high and far in the Lord's Service.

## PRESENT PASTOR AND FAMILY



### THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The thought foremost in our minds as we look to the 100th Anniversary of Bethphage Lutheran Congregation is that we have entered into the labors of so many others who have served here before us. We rejoice with you that we are able to follow in the footsteps of a splendid company of consecrated men and women, young and old, who have and do hold membership here. To the Pastors, who have laid the foundation and those who built thereon, we owe our thanks as they labored faithfully to plant and nurture God's work in the hearts of all. In addition to those named in our History, many others, living and gone, have toiled with patience and given cheerfully through the long century that their Church might live and grow. Though all their names have not been recorded, let us not fail to remember, with thanksgiving, their noble deeds; and may we, the present membership, encouraged by their example, continue our labors for the Church which they founded and established, so that the future of Bethphage, by the grace of Almighty God, may be even more fruitful than the past. Let us, then, as we tread where saints have trod, press onward. This is the Day of the Lord! Alerted to the needs of the present and preparing for the demands of the future, let us rise up and meet the opportunities of the years ahead in the name of our Lord!

Pastor Yount and family







